

1 in Chapter 57
2 Library

KEMPSTON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1957

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OF THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR
1956

H. S. BURY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

C. A. L. SETCHELL, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.S.I., M.A.P.H.I.,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
MEMBERS AND PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY	3
PREFACE	4
1. STATISTICS OF THE AREA	5
2. SOCIAL CONDITIONS	5
3. VITAL STATISTICS	6
4. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE AREA	9
5. SCHOOLS	11
6. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA	12
(a) Water Supply	12
(b) Drainage and sewerage	12
(c) Rivers and streams	13
(d) Public Cleansing	13
(e) Sanitary Inspection of the area	13
(f) Shops and Offices	14
(g) Smoke abatement	14
(h) Swimming baths and Pools	14
(i) Petroleum Regulations	14
(j) Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951	14
(k) Licensed Premises	14
(l) Public Mortuary	14
(m) Disinfections	15
(n) Disinfestations	15
(o) Marine Stores	15
7. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD	15
(1) Milk Supply	15
(2) Meat	16
(3) Other Foods	17

	PAGE
8. HOUSING	18
(1) Applications for Council Houses	19
(2) Inspection of Dwelling Houses	19
(3) Remedy of defects without Service of Formal Notices	19
(4) Action under Statutory Powers	20
(5) Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding	20
(6) Housing Acts, 1949 and 1954	20
9. NEW BUILDINGS	
Plans submitted and dealt with during the year	21
10. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES	21
11. TUBERCULOSIS	22
12. MASS RADIOGRAPHY	24
13. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION	24
14. CLEANSING OF VERMINOUS PERSONS	24
15. PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS	25
16. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (SECTION 47)	25
17. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949	25
18. FACTORIES	
(1) Inspections	26
(2) Cases in which defects were found	27
(3) Outwork	27

KEMPSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman

MR. R. A. CARDING, J.P.

Vice-Chairman

MR. R. H. MATHEWS

MRS. M. L. VAUGHAN

MR. W. HAYLOCK

MR. J. W. BAKER

MR. C. S. HILL

MR. L. R. COOPER

MR. J. G. SMITH

MR. C. G. H. CROUCH

MR. A. THOMAS

MR. C. R. DEVITT

MR. P. WHITWORTH

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

H. S. BURY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Surveyor, Chief Public Health Inspector and Water Engineer

C. A. L. SETCHELL,

A.M.I.S.E., M.R.San.I., M.A.P.H.I., Cert. S.I.B., Cert. Meat Inspection

Additional Public Health Inspector and Assistant Building Surveyor

R. F. RAWLINS, A.R.San.I., M.A.P.H.I., Cert.S.I.B.

(Resigned 31.12.56)

Clerks

MRS. C. J. KIRK

MISS J. HALL

General Foreman and Mortuary Superintendant

H. J. MAYHEW

Rodent Operator

F. W. CAVES

To the Chairman and Members of the Kempston Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report upon the health, vital statistics and sanitary conditions of the district for the year, 1956.

The health of the district, as indicated by the vital statistics and the low proportion of deaths which occurred under the age of 65, indicate a satisfactory state of health by present day standards. The incidence of infectious disease was low.

This is the first year since records have been kept that I have been able to report the absence of deaths from tuberculosis in the district. As will be seen from the table in the body of the report, there has been a steady reduction in this cause of death in the post war years, although by contrast, the number of cases of the disease notified has been high. This is probably due to the better ascertainment and notification of the disease. I think it is safe to say that we are now witnessing the end of an epidemic of tuberculosis which has affected this country for the last 200 years, and if a determined effort is now made it is possible to rid this country of the disease completely. Many factors contribute towards this favourable position, social conditions, such as improved housing and full employment are probably the most important, but advances in medical treatment and the untiring work of the tuberculosis service in discovering new cases together with the work of the Mass Radiography Unit, have also helped. During 1957 this district will become a Specified Area where only T.T. or pasteurised milk may be sold and the County Council is to start a scheme for B.C.G. vaccination of all school leavers. Public co-operation in discovering the remaining cases who keep the infection alive, should lead to the final elimination of this scourge.

It is rather alarming to note that while the total number of deaths from tuberculosis during the years 1950-1955 inclusive was 10, the number of deaths from cancer of the lung during the corresponding period was 17. This suggests that one of our chief killers is now being replaced by another, even more deadly. The remedy, however, is in our own hands, for it has been shown beyond any reasonable doubt, that the major factor in the causation of this disease is smoking, the death rate being 40 times higher for those who smoke 25 or more cigarettes a day than for non-smokers. The discovery of other causes of cancer such as chimney sweeps' cancer, mule spinners' cancer and chrome workers' cancer has quickly led to steps being taken to eliminate these forms of the disease and it is rather remarkable that there has been so much resistance both in official quarters and amongst the public to the acceptance of this simple fact.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the members of the Council and Council staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. S. BURY,

May, 1957.

Medical Officer of Health.

KEMPSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1956

1. STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,302
Registrar General's estimate of mid-year population, 1956 (including Service Personnel)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,400
Number of Inhabited Houses (at end of 1956) according to the Rate Book										2,886
Rateable Value (1st April 1957)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£90,869
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£350

2. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The majority of employed people work in Bedford, or at Brickworks south of Kempston. A considerable number of men and girls are employed in engineering works in Bedford.

Apart from the electric lamp works, the remainder in Kempston are small concerns comprising a shoe factory, leather works, iron foundry, pattern makers, engineering works, crayon works, cardboard box factory, tin works and metal hose works.

Full employment has been enjoyed during the year. The general social problem is the shortage of houses, although the waiting list for the tenancy of Council houses has been drastically reduced this year as many people have not re-registered in view of the high rents which are expected to be charged for houses built in the future without subsidy.

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	75	58	133
Illegitimate	...	...	...	2	2	4
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	77	60	137
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Crude Birth Rate	...	...	...	14.6 per 1,000 home population		
Comparable Birth Rate	...	...	...	15.6	„	„

(The comparability factor for the District being 1.07)

As compared with:—

Average of last 5 years	...	...	...	13.9 per 1,000 home population		
Rate for Bedfordshire	...	...	...	16.7	„	„
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	15.7	„	„

STILL BIRTHS

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	2	2	4
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	2	2	4
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Still Birth Rate ... 28.4 per 1,000 live and still births

As compared with—

Average of last 5 years	...	...	...	23.2	„	„	„	„	„
Rate for Bedfordshire	...	...	...	22.8	„	„	„	„	„
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	23.0	„	„	„	„	„

DEATHS

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deaths in the District	...	...	...	27	42	69
Transferred into District	...	...	...	15	24	39
Transferred from District	...	...	...	6	11	17
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	36	55	91
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Crude Death Rate ... 9.7 per 1,000 home population
 Comparable Death Rate ... 10.2 „ „ „ „

(The comparability factor for the District being 1.05)

As compared with:—

Average of last 5 years	...	...	9·6	per 1,000 home population
Rate for Bedfordshire	...	...	11·0	„ „ „ „
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	11·7	„ „ „ „

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	2	3	5
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total	...	...	...	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>

Infant Mortality Rate	36·5	per 1,000 related live births
-----------------------	-----	-----	------	-------------------------------

As compared with:—

Average of last 5 years	...	...	21·7	„	„	„	„	„
Rate for Bedfordshire	...	...	22·2	„	„	„	„	„
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	23·8	„	„	„	„	„

DEATHS CONNECTED WITH CHILDBIRTH

Maternal Mortality	Nil	per 1,000 total (live and still) births
--------------------	-----	-----	-----	---

As compared with:—

Average of last 5 years	...	...	Nil	„	„	„	„	„	„
Rate for Bedfordshire	...	...	0·54	„	„	„	„	„	„
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	0·56	„	„	„	„	„	„

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH

Causes	Under 15 years		15-65		over 65		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
4. Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	—	—	2	1	—	2	2	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	1	—	—	—	3	2	4	2
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16. Diabetes ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17. Vascular Lesions of nervous system ...	—	—	1	2	6	11	7	13
18. Coronary disease, angina ...	—	—	—	—	3	7	3	7
19. Hypertension with heart disease ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20. Other heart disease ...	—	—	1	1	7	9	8	10
21. Other circulatory disease ...	—	—	—	—	2	3	2	3
22. Influenza ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
24. Bronchitis ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ...	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations ...	1	1	1	—	—	—	2	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	1	1	—	—	2	4	3	5
33. Motor vehicle accidents ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
34. All other accidents ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
35. Suicide ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
36. Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All causes ...	3	3	6	7	27	45	36	55

CAUSE OF DEATH IN INFANTS

Cause	Age	Total
Congenital Malformations ...	1 day	1
Prematurity ...	3 hours	1
” ...	7 hours	1
Pyloric Stenosis and Prematurity ...	1 month	1
Suffocation ...	3 months	1

4. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE AREA

PROVIDED BY THE NORTH WEST METROPOLITAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD

GENERAL HOSPITALS

Bedford General Hospital, South Wing, Kempston Road, Bedford.
Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE HOSPITALS

Spittlesea Isolation Hospital, Spittlesea, Nr. Luton, Beds.

CHEST CLINICS (FOR PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS)

Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.

VENEREAL DISEASE CLINICS

Bedford General Hospital (South Wing).

Wednesday, 5 p.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 3 p.m.-5 p.m.

Luton and Dunstable Hospital.

Monday to Friday, 8.30 a.m.-8.30 p.m., Saturday, 8.30 a.m.-12 noon.

PROVIDED BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORY

Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.

PROVIDED BY THE BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Service provided by the Bedfordshire County Council has satisfactorily met the needs of the area. It covers the full twenty-four hours, and is free of charge.

In addition to moving emergency cases, ambulance or sitting case car transport is available for carrying patients unable to travel by other means to and from Hospitals and Clinics, when attendance is necessary for the purpose of receiving medical treatment.

Except in the case of an emergency, the request for an ambulance must be made by a Medical Practitioner or other authorised person. This should be to the nearest depot.

The service now also covers the removal to isolation hospitals of patients suffering from infectious disease.

Depots are situated as follows:—

	<i>Telephone</i>
BEDFORD Bedford Road, Kempston	Bedford 5335
AMPTHILL 14 Dunstable Street	Amphill 3333
BIGGLESWADE Crab Lane	Biggleswade 2295
DUNSTABLE High Street North	Dunstable 761
LUTON Leicester Road, Luton	Luton 4600
LINSLADE (Bucks. County Council) 10 New Road, Linslade	Leighton Buzzard 3332
RUSHDEN Rushden and District Motor Ambulance Association, Mr. C. C. Woods, 3 Purvis Road	Rushden 2403

DOMICILIARY NURSING AND MIDWIFERY SERVICE

This Service is administered by the Northern Divisional Health Committee.

The Nurses employed are:—

Nurse F. H. Patton††, 12 Stewartby (Tel: Lower Shelton 268).

Nurse M. Clark*†, 14 Birchdale Avenue, Kempston (Tel: Kempston 2172)

Mr. A. J. A. Swanston‡, 8 Harewood Road, Bedford (Tel: Bedford 5293).

Nurse C. B. Macdonald‡, Flat 6, The Grange, Kempston (Tel: Kempston 2293).

† S.C.M. (State Certified Midwife) * S.E.A.N. (State Enrolled Assistant Nurse)

‡ S.R.N. (State Registered Nurse)

HEALTH VISITING SERVICE

Mrs. E. H. Simmons, "Whyteleafe", Stagsden Road, Bromham.

Miss E. B. Strong, Flat B, 14 Rothsay Gardens, Bedford.

HOME HELP SERVICE

Organiser: Mrs. V. M. Pedley, 3 St. Peter's Street, Bedford (Tel: Bedford 2207).

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE

Kempston Methodist Schoolroom (Foster Road), Fridays 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

SCHOOL CLINICS

St. Peter's Clinic, 3 St. Peter's Street, Bedford.	Child Guidance Dental (2 surgeries) Orthoptic Speech therapy Sunlight	2 sessions weekly Sessions as required Six sessions weekly Three sessions weekly When specially arranged
--	---	--

5. SCHOOLS

There are four schools in the district:—

1. KEMPSTON SECONDARY MODERN SCHOOL

The average number of pupils on the roll (Christmas term) was 417.

The sanitary accommodation is as follows:—

Girls	...	...	...	7 W.Cs. and 9 washbasins.
Boys	...	...	...	8 W.Cs. (of which 6 W.Cs. shared with Juniors from Primary School); 2 urinals and 11 washbasins.

2. BEDFORD ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL (JUNIOR)

The average number of pupils on the roll (Christmas term) was 186.

Temporary accommodation for 75 children is provided at the East Methodist Church Hall.

The sanitary accommodation is as follows:—

Girls: infants and juniors	...	...	7 W.Cs.
Boys: infants	...	...	2 W.Cs. and 1 urinal.
juniors	...	...	6 W.Cs. (shared with Secondary Modern School) and 1 urinal.

There are 9 washbasins.

In addition the following sanitary accommodation is provided at the East Methodist Church Hall.

Girls	...	...	...	2 W.Cs.
Boys	...	...	...	1 W.C. and urinal.

There are 2 sinks for washing purposes.

3. THE UP END PRIMARY SCHOOL (INFANTS)

The average number of pupils on the roll (Christmas term) was 272.

The sanitary accommodation is as follows:—

Girls: infants	...	}	10 W.Cs.
juniors	...		
Boys: infants	...	}	4 W.Cs. and 6 Urinals.
juniors	...		

There are 12 washbasins.

Only 1 W.C. is provided at this school for the use of teachers.

Each of the schools has a main water supply. School dinners are provided in canteens situated at the Kempston Secondary Modern School and in the Parochial Hall.

4. BALLIOL ROAD COUNTY PRIMARY (JUNIORS AND INFANTS)

Number of pupils on roll (Christmas term) was 320.

The sanitary accommodation is as follows:—

Girls	...	...	...	12 W.Cs.
Boys	...	...	...	6 W.Cs.

6. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

(a) WATER SUPPLY

Apart from four cottages situated on the outskirts of the District all premises are provided with a piped water supply from off the Council's distribution mains.

The water supply which is bought in bulk from the Biggleswade U.D. and Bedford Borough, has been satisfactory in quantity and quality, the 101 samples taken for bacteriological examination from various points on the supply during the year being reported as of a high standard, with the exception of 2 due to faulty taps, subsequently replaced.

Further discussions have taken place between Representatives of Kempston Urban District Council, Bedford Corporation and Bedford Rural District Council as to the question of setting up a Joint Water Board for the three Authorities and the possibility of supplying the areas concerned with water from the Corporation's supply extracted from the River Great Ouse.

Consumption figures for the year are given in the following table:—

					Gallons
Kempston Urban District	...	...	...	...	106,135,000
Elstow	...	...	...	...	5,018,000
Cardington	...	...	...	...	2,147,000
R.A.F. Station, Cardington	...	...	...	...	73,111,000
					<hr/> 186,411,000 <hr/>

During the year, sixteen defective services to dwellinghouses were renewed, and three fractures of supply mains dealt with. The Council continued its policy of re-washing leaking taps free of charge, and 145 received attention.

To serve development taking place, the 3" supply main in King William Road was extended 46 yards and in Springfield Avenue 100 yards

(b) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Apart from the following premises which are situated in the out-parts of the District, all dwelling houses are connected to the sewers:—

<i>Situation</i>					<i>No. of Premises</i>	<i>Sanitary Arrangements</i>
Sailor's Bridge	...	...	...	...	2	Pail Closets
Mill Cottage	...	...	...	...	1	"
Kempston Mill	...	...	...	...	1	Chemical Closet
Bury Cottages	...	...	...	...	4	Pail Closets
Hoo Lodge	...	...	...	...	1	Cesspool
The Mill House	...	...	...	...	1	"
The Manor	...	...	...	...	1	"
Manor Cottage	...	...	...	...	1	"
The Manor Cottages	...	...	...	...	2	"
The Bury	...	...	...	...	1	"

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS

The scheme for the re-modelling and enlargement of the Works, which was the subject of Ministerial Inquiry in 1946 unfortunately still remains in abeyance.

The experiment of using layers of baled straw to facilitate sludge drying was continued during the year and no difficulty was experienced in disposing of the dried sludge to Local farmers.

(c) RIVERS AND STREAMS

No complaints have been received of river or stream pollution during the year, and no action has been necessary.

(d) PUBLIC CLEANSING

A regular weekly collection of household and trade refuse has been maintained during the year throughout the District. A 16/18 cubic yard for and aft tipper being used entirely for domestic premises, whilst a 10/12 cubic yard side loading vehicle has been operated to deal mainly with trade refuse for which service a charge of 1s. 0d. per bin or bin equivalent collected is made. The established practice of calling at premises at a regular time on a definite day each week is much appreciated by residents and it says much for the efficiency and keenness of the men employed on this work when ratepayers report that they are able to set their watches when the "dustmen" call.

Towards the end of the year the Council provided litter baskets on lamp posts and at bus stopping places throughout the district, in order to discourage the deposit of waste paper, etc. in the streets. These have been cleared daily.

During the year 3,455 tons of house and trade refuse was collected and disposed of.

The following table shows the quantities of salvage sold:—

						<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>
Waste Paper, Books, Cardboard	...	...	...	...	...	15	14
Scrap Iron and Tins	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Non-ferrous Metals	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Textiles	...	...	...	...	...	—	8
Bones	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Bottles and Jars	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
						<hr/> 16	<hr/> 4

Revenue from sale of Salvage during the year amounted to £68 0s. 7d.

The Contract with a specialist firm employing mechanical equipment for the emptying and cleansing of all road gulleys once every quarter has been renewed for a further three years. The cost of 1s. 8d. per gulley for emptying represents a considerable saving over the cost of the work previously carried out by direct labour.

(e) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following table shows the number of inspections made during the year, for all purposes:—

Dwelling-houses inspected and recorded under the Housing Acts Regulations	42
Ordinary Inspections for housing defects	124
Sanitary routine inspections	198
Inspection of Slaughterhouses and Foodstuffs	56
Visits and revisits to Council Property relating to reported defects and repairs of same	758

Inspection of Factories and Workshops, including Bakehouses	...	...	41
Inspection of Cow-sheds and Dairies	...	...	12
Inspection of Petroleum Stores	...	...	14
Visits <i>re</i> Infectious Disease	...	...	6
Rooms disinfected	...	...	6
Inspection under Shops Act	...	...	5
Drainage Inspections	...	...	214
Drain Tests	...	...	151
Caravans	...	...	28
Other Miscellaneous visits	...	...	164
Water Services	...	...	98
Building Bye-laws	...	...	763

(f) SHOPS AND OFFICES

No action with regard to shops and offices was found necessary, except in the case of food shops which are reported separately.

(g) SMOKE ABATEMENT

Close observations have been made on the emissions of smoke and grit from factory chimneys and many consultations with the Managements concerned have been held.

(h) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are no privately owned or other swimming baths open to the public in the District.

During the summer period considerable use is made of a natural bathing pool and sandpit situated on the northern boundary of the district, by persons patronising the Honey Hill Lido. As the greater part of the premises come within the Borough of Bedford, supervision is carried out by officials of the Bedford Corporation Public Health Department.

(i) PETROLEUM REGULATIONS

The total number of licences in force was 29 in respect of petrol installations and 1 carbide.

(j) RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

One premises is registered under this Act.

(k) LICENSED PREMISES

During the year at 8 of the 12 premises in the District works of improvements to bring them up to modern requirements were carried out.

(l) PUBLIC MORTUARY

A Public Mortuary is maintained by the Council at Farrer Street which, by arrangement, is available for use by the neighbouring Authorities of Ampthill and Bedford Rural District Councils. During the period under review no bodies were actually received into the Mortuary.

(m) DISINFECTIONS

Fumigation of rooms has been carried out as follows, by a dilute spray of Formalin and by Formaldehyde Gas.

After Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	Nil
After Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	Nil
Other Causes	...	...	...	...	6

An inspection of the house and sanitary arrangements is also made in each case, and notice served to make good any defect that may be found.

(n) DISINFESTATIONS

Six premises have been treated for the eradication of wasps, flies, cockroaches and beetles.

(o) MARINE STORES

Two persons with premises in the District are registered as Dealers in Scrap Metal.

7. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(1) MILK SUPPLY

(i) DAIRIES AND DISTRIBUTORS

The following table shows the number of distributors and dairy premises on the register at the end of the year.

Registered dairy premises	...	...	...	...	...	4
Registered distributors—						
(a) Trading from premises within the district	...	...	...	...	...	4
(b) Trading from premises outside the district	...	...	...	...	...	3

(ii) SPECIALLY DESIGNATED MILKS

The following table shows the licenses issued and in force during the year under the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 and the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

<i>"Tuberculin Tested"*</i>						
Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	4
Supplementary Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	3
<i>"Pasteurised"*</i>						
Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	4
Supplementary Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	3
<i>"Sterilised"</i>						
Dealer	...	...	...	...	...	1

* Four distributors dealt in Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk.

Frequent samples of designated milks are taken by the County Sanitary Officer who furnishes copies of the laboratory reports; these indicated that the supplies were entirely satisfactory during the year under review.

(2) MEAT

The re-commencement of private slaughtering was permitted in July, 1955, and all butchers and others concerned were informed of the Statutory requirements affecting the slaughter of animals intended for sale for human consumption. Two private slaughter houses were licensed by the Council and the following table shows the number of carcasses inspected to the end of the year:—

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	109	Nil
Number inspected	—	—	—	—	109	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	9	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	8.25	—
<i>Cysticercosis:</i>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Although the Council agreed to allow their Inspectors to carry out certification duties under the Government's Fat Stock Guarantee Scheme, no actual work was performed under the Scheme up to the end of the year.

In June, the Council adopted Byelaws as to the Sanitary conditions and Management of Private Slaughterhouses, based on the Ministry's Model and made under Section 68 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. These were brought into operation as from the 15th September, 1956.

(3) OTHER FOODS

A. NUMBER OF FOOD HANDLING PREMISES IN THE AREA

							Number	Visits made
(a) <i>Shops:—</i>								
1.	Ice Cream vendors	...	...	...	...	...	27	23
2.	Bakers and confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	20	22
3.	Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	22	19
4.	Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	4	10
5.	General stores	...	...	...	...	...	13	22
6.	Delicatessen shops	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
7.	Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	8	41
8.	Dairies and retail milk distributors	...	...	...	...	...	4	12
(b) <i>Vans, stalls, and hawkers</i>							4	9
(c) <i>Catering establishments:—</i>								
1.	Restaurants and cafes	...	...	...	...	...	4	12
2.	Industrial canteens	...	...	...	...	...	8	9
3.	School canteens	...	...	...	...	...	3	6
4.	Hotels	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Outside catering contractors	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Fish and chip shops	...	...	...	...	...	3	11
7.	Others	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
(d) <i>Manufacturing establishments (Registered under Section 16 of Food and Drugs Act, 1955)—</i>								
1.	Sausage makers	...	...	...	...	...	6	31
2.	Meat pie and cooked meat makers	...	...	...	...	...	1	6
3.	Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	6	12
4.	Ice cream makers	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Confectionery manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	4	6
6.	Others	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
(e) <i>Licensed Premises</i>							139 12	24

B. CONDEMNED FOODS AND DISPOSAL THEREOF

All unsound food is surrendered voluntarily, and a condemnation certificate is issued. Condemned food is disposed of by burial or other suitable means.

Food condemned during the year consisted of :—

Imported and Home Killed Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	164 lbs.
Canned Meats	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ Baked Beans	...	...	...	...	...	...	41 lbs.

C. FOOD LEGISLATION: ACTION TAKEN UNDER:—

1. ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC.) REGULATIONS, 1947-1952

There are at the moment no manufacturers of ice cream in the Urban District. Routine samples of ice cream are taken from 27 retailers who are licensed under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Of the 6 samples taken 4 were Grade I and 2 were Grade II.

2. FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS AND FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955

Inspections have been made of all food premises (including public houses) to ensure compliance with the provisions of the above Regulations, particular attention being paid to the following:—

- (1) Provision of washing facilities with hot water, and W.C. accommodation.
- (2) General cleanliness of premises.
- (3) Storage of food, including perishable goods.
- (4) Vermin infestation.

At the end of the year all food premises complied with the Food Acts and Regulations, although in three cases the threat of legal proceedings was required before they were brought up to the required standard.

3. PROPAGANDA AND EDUCATION ON CLEAN FOOD UNDERTAKEN DURING THE YEAR.

Education of food handlers is continuing and visits to food handlers and posters are used to keep the subject before the public.

8. HOUSING

The following table shows the number of houses completed for occupation since the end of the second world war:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>By Kempston U.D.C.</i>	<i>By Other Authorities</i>	<i>By Private Enterprise</i>	<i>Total</i>
1946	20	—	24	44
1947	29	6	6	41
1948	65	—	1	66
1949	26	—	15	41
1950	30	18	2	50
1951	14	7	6	27
1952	46	2	12	60
1953	20	26	38	84
1954	7 (flats)	30	18	55
1955	22	16	39	77
1956	28	7	20	57
	2 (flats)			
Totals	309	112	181	602

(1) APPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL HOUSES

The total number of applications for houses on the books of the Council at the end of the year under review was as follows:—

(a) Applicants with families in rooms:					
(i)	Residing and working in Kempston	...	...	...	6
(ii)	Residing but not working in Kempston	...	...	...	24
(iii)	Working but not residing in Kempston	...	...	...	2
(iv)	Not working or residing in Kempston	...	...	...	13
(b) Householders with families:					
(i)	Residing and working in Kempston	...	...	...	10
(ii)	Residing but not working in Kempston	...	...	...	20
(iii)	Working but not residing in Kempston	...	...	...	5
(iv)	Not working or residing in Kempston	...	...	...	15
(c) Applicants without children:					
(i)	Residing and working in Kempston	...	...	...	5
(ii)	Residing but not working in Kempston	...	...	...	8
(iii)	Working but not residing in Kempston	...	...	...	—
(iv)	Not Working or residing in Kempston	...	...	...	14
(d)	Single Persons	...	...	...	2
(e)	Applicants for Old People's Dwellings	...	...	...	29
(f)	Grange Flats	...	...	...	22
Total					175

(2) INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	65
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	124
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under the sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	...	...	...	42
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	60
3.		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	Nil
4.		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	22

(3) REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

Number of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers					
...	...	...	...	...	26

(4) ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- | | | |
|--|--------|-----|
| 1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | ... .. | Nil |
| 2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:— | | |
| (a) By owners | ... .. | Nil |
| (b) By local authority in default of owners | ... .. | Nil |

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

- | | | |
|---|--------|-----|
| 1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... .. | Nil |
| 2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:— | | |
| (a) By owners | ... .. | Nil |
| (b) By local authority in default of owners | ... .. | Nil |

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- | | | |
|--|--------|-----|
| 1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... .. | Nil |
| 2. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... .. | Nil |

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- | | | |
|---|--------|-----|
| 1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... .. | Nil |
| 2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... .. | Nil |

(5) HOUSING ACT, 1936—PART IV—OVERCROWDING

No action has been taken under this part of the Act although records of known cases of overcrowding are maintained which are brought to the notice of the department mainly because the persons concerned wish to strengthen their application for a Council House on these grounds. The standard of overcrowding is based on the number of occupants of a dwelling and the floor space of the rooms, and much distress can be caused when two or more families have to share a dwelling and its conveniences which may be designed only for a single family, though these cases do not come within the legal definition of overcrowding.

Considerable difficulty is still being experienced in getting house repairs carried out, particularly with the older types of small dwellings where the controlled rents are so low that the carrying out of extensive repairs by the owners creates definite hardship.

(6) HOUSING ACTS, 1949 AND 1954

11 applications for Improvement Grants were received during the period under review. Grants totalling £730 were made by the Council in respect of 7 premises, the total cost of the works carried out amounting to £1,800 0s. 0d. One application was subsequently withdrawn and in respect of three applications, no grant was made.

9. NEW BUILDINGS

(1) PLANS SUBMITTED AND DEALT WITH DURING YEAR

Dwelling houses:—

(a) Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
(b) Housing Society	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
(c) Private Enterprise	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Local Authority Garages	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Private Garages	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Outbuildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Extensions or alterations to existing buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Industrial and Business Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Building Sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Other Plans	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

10. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	Notifications by Age Groups									Removed to hospital
	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	over 15	Total	
Measles	3	6	5	16	10	38	1	—	79	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	8	9	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	4	2
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Infective Hepatitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	5	—
Whooping Cough	—	1	6	10	5	9	1	1	33	3
Meningococcal Meningitis	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Polio-myelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Ophthalmia neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—

It will be seen from the above table that the incidence of infectious disease in the district was generally low.

Protection against diphtheria is well maintained by the County Council scheme for immunisation and during the last year, protection against whooping cough has been offered on a limited scale. It is hoped that the effect of this will show itself in the reduced incidence of this disease in a few years' time.

The one case of poliomyelitis which occurred in the district was normally resident elsewhere and was visiting her parents at the time of the onset of the illness. Evidence suggested that the infection was contracted outside the district. Both parents were connected with the food distribution trade and they were excluded from their employment until considered free from the possibility of infection.

A start was made on the government scheme for protection against poliomyelitis during the year.

11. TUBERCULOSIS

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year to 5 years	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 years to 15 years	1+1*	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 „ 35 „	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 „ 65 „	3	—	—	1*	—	—	—	—
Over 65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	5+1*	6	—	1*	—	—	—	—

* Transferred from another District.

NUMBER ON REGISTER AT END OF YEAR

									Male	Female
Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31	26
Non-Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	5

DEATH RATES PER 100,000 OF THE POPULATION (respiratory tuberculosis)

This District ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Bedfordshire ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6.7
England and Wales ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.9

INCIDENCE OF TUBERCULOSIS, 1930—1956

Year	New Cases				Total	Deaths				Total
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
1930	5	1	—	1	7	5	—	—	—	5
1931	4	3	1	—	8	2	—	1	—	3
1932	3	2	—	—	5	2	2	—	—	4
1933	3	4	—	—	7	—	6	—	1	7
1934	1	1	3	—	5	2	2	1	—	5
1935	2	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	2
1936	2	2	—	2	6	2	2	—	1	5
1937	3	5	—	1	9	1	—	—	1	2
1938	2	1	2	—	5	1	2	1	1	5
1939	3	4	1	—	8	1	1	1	—	3
1940	5	7	—	1	13	4	2	1	—	7
1941	3	3	1	—	7	2	—	—	—	2
1942	5	—	2	—	7	5	2	—	1	8
1943	3	2	—	2	7	2	—	—	1	3
1944	4	4	2	—	10	1	—	—	—	1
1945	2	3	—	1	6	1	1	1	2	5
1946	2	4	—	1	7	3	2	—	—	5
1947	4	8	—	2	14	2	—	—	1	3
1948	7	7	—	—	14	3	1	1	—	5
1949	5	3	1	1	10	2	1	—	—	3
1950	4	5	1	—	10	1	1	—	—	2
1951	3	1	2	2	8	1	—	—	—	1
1952	10	6	1	2	19	—	—	1	—	1
1953	6	3	1	—	10	2	1	—	—	3
1954	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1
1955	2	2	—	1	5	1	1	—	—	2
1956	5	6	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—

12. MASS RADIOGRAPHY

A visit was made by the Unit to the district in April and a total of 1,375 persons were examined. 726 were members of the general public and 649 were from industrial establishments. Of these people, 19 were found to be in need of further investigation.

It will be seen from the above table that the number of new cases notified this year has, in consequence, been very much increased.

13. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Immunisation and vaccination is now the responsibility of the County Council and the state of protection of the children of the District is indicated by the tables appearing below, which have been supplied by the Divisional Medical Officer.

IMMUNISATION STATE OF THE CHILD POPULATION

	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-14	Total Under 15
Children completely protected (i.e. have received primary or booster injections since 1st January, 1952)	11	318	578	472	1,379
Children partially protected (i.e. have received primary injection prior to 1st January, 1952) ...	—	—	144	258	402
Total ...	11	318	722	730	1,781

VACCINATIONS CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR

	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 and over	Total
Primary Vaccination	42	5	4	4	4	59
Re-Vaccination	—	—	1	1	18	20

14. CLEANSING OF VERMINOUS PERSONS

LICE AND SCABIES

By arrangement with the Borough of Bedford, infected persons are treated at the Borough Treatment Centre, Commercial Road, Bedford, at 10s. per treatment for scabies and £1 per treatment for cleansing from vermin.

Where possible, arrangements are made for the other members of the household to attend for treatment as contacts at the same time as the infected person or persons.

During the year under review no treatments were given.

15. PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

No action was necessary to be taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

16. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (SECTION 47)

No action was necessary under this Act during the year.

17. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The following table shows the work undertaken during the year, ending 31st March, 1957.

	No. of properties inspected	No. of properties found to be infested	No. of Notices served under Sec. 4	No. of treatments carried out	
				By Council's Operator	Voluntarily by occupiers
Local Authority's Property	9	3	—	9	—
Dwelling Houses	493	45	—	180	—
Business Premises	66	9	—	36	—
Agricultural Property ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total	568	57	—	225	—

In addition test baiting of the Council's sewerage system was carried out with negative results.

All complaints of rodent infestation are promptly investigated by the Council's Operator, who devoted a considerable amount of time in continuing the routine survey of the district. It was found that infestations at dwelling house properties were mainly associated with the keeping of poultry or animals.

Great importance is given to providing a prompt and efficient service which, though far from self-supporting from the financial aspect, is felt to be fully justified in preventing damage to properties and foodstuffs, and in the prevention of the spread of disease.

18. FACTORIES

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	47	34	4	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	4	—	—
Totals	57	41	4	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	4	4	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	1	1	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	6	6	—	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

3. OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110(1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel—Making, etc. ...	8	—	—	—	—	—

